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## OTSEGO COUNTY FARMERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH LEADING FARM SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFIER

--Ilyssa Berg and Javier Flores of Painted Goat Farm in Garrattsville, New York, celebrate 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW--



**GARRATTSVILLE, NY (OCTOBER 23, 2019)**—Ilyssa Berg and Javier Flores of Painted Goat Farm in Garrattsville, NY, are celebrating 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by [A Greener World](http://agreenerworld.org) (AGW), the leading animal welfare and sustainability label across North America.

The herd of roughly 90 Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW dairy goats at Painted Goat Farm graze over 100 acres of rolling hills and brush in upstate New York and produce the milk from which Berg and Flores create high quality goat milk cheese, yogurt, and confections. Painted Goat Farm's cheese and other products are produced on site in the cheese house and aging cave (12 feet below ground level), which Berg and Flores designed and built themselves. Over the last few years, they have won various farm business awards to continue expanding and improving their successful operation.

Painted Goat Farm achieved Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification for the herd of goats in 2009. The farmers have received a commemorative metal farm sign to acknowledge the decade of certification—and ongoing commitment to high-welfare, sustainable farming.

The Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW label lets consumers know farm animals are raised outdoors on pasture or range in accordance with the highest animal welfare standards in the U.S. and Canada, using sustainable agriculture methods on an independent farm. Consumer Reports has rated Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW as a “highly meaningful” label for farm animal welfare, outdoor access and sustainability--and the **only** animal welfare certification in which they have confidence. A recent report from the influential Hartman Group, a leading food and beverage market research company, reveals Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW label has the **highest impact** on consumer purchasing behavior of any food label.

**Ilyssa Berg of Painted Goat Farm says,**

“10 years ago, we couldn't wait to be the first goat dairy to be Certified Animal Welfare Approved in the Northeast! As soon as I heard about Animal Welfare Approved certification, I knew it was a perfect fit with how and why we farm. Ten years later, we remain just as committed to the welfare ideals set by the program and value the ways that the environmental standards address the immense issue of global climate change. We feel it has and will continue to be important to consumers to see the Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW label as a testament to the integrity of our farming practices.”

**AGW Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,**

“We’re so proud to celebrate 10 years with Painted Goat Farm and we applaud their commitment to good stewardship, community values and transparency. Ilyssa Berg and Javier Flores have consistently been at the forefront of the growing market for verified sustainable products. As this market continues to expand, AGW farmers are leading--offering trusted and verified products to a public hungry for honestly labeled meat, dairy and eggs. We celebrate our shared successes over the last decade--and look forward to the next!”

For more information about Painted Goat Farm, visit [paintedgoat.com](http://paintedgoat.com) or contact Ilyssa Berg at [ilyssa@paintedgoat.com](mailto:ilyssa@paintedgoat.com) and (607) 321-3191.

#### **ABOUT A GREENER WORLD**

A Greener World (AGW) identifies, audits, certifies and promotes practical, sustainable farming systems by supporting farmers and ranchers and informing consumers. AGW’s growing family of trusted certifications includes [Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW](#), [Certified Grassfed by AGW](#) and [Certified Non-GMO by AGW](#). Each program is designed to have positive and measurable impacts on the environment, society and

animals, and to encourage truly sustainable farming practices. AGW's standards and procedures are robust, transparent and achievable.

A nonprofit funded by public donations and [membership](#), AGW offers a range of resources to help people make informed food choices, including an [Online Directory](#) of certified farms and products and [Food Labels Exposed](#)--a definitive guide to food label claims (available in print, online, and as a smartphone app). For more information visit [agreenerworld.org](http://agreenerworld.org).

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